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TAGS: IR, IS, JO, KU, LE, MCAP, MICI, MASS, SA, SF	
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PAGE 02 STATE 108266	

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE OF FMS/MAP DETAILS ON ARAB

COUNTRIES, IRAN AND ISRAEL

- 1. AS A GENERAL PREMISE, DEPARTMENT HAS SUPPORTED PRINCIPLE OF MAKING AVAILABLE FULL DETAILS ON PAST U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, IN CASE OF IRAN, ISRAEL AND FOUR ARAB COUNTRIES, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON AND SAUDI ARABIA, DEPARTMENT HAS IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS THAT REQUIRE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION ON DETAILS OF PROGRAMS FOR CURRENT AND THREE PRIOR FISCAL YEARS FOR EACH OF SIX COUNTRIES.
- 2. A CONGRESSMAN HAS NOW MADE FORMAL REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TO HAVE DETAILS ON FMS/MAP PROGRAMS TO THE SIX COUNTRIES RELEASED TO HIM ON AN UNCLASSIFIED BASIS. (HE ALREADY HAS ACCESS TO SAME INFORMATION ON CLASSIFIED BASIS) CONGRESSMAN HAS INDICATED THAT HE INTENDS TO LITIGATE MATTER IN THE COURTS, IF REQUEST REFUSED. RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE FIA PERMIT JUDICIAL REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE PROPRIETY OF THEIR CLASSIFICATION I.E. WHETHER DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS WOULD DAMAGE U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS.
- 3. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THAT PRESENT TIME IN WHICH U.S. POLICY UNDERGOING REVIEW PROBABLY NOT PROPITIOUS IN MAJORITY OF INSTANCES FOR EMBASSY TO RAISE MATTER WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO TAKE MATTER UP AT ITS DISCRETION. IF EMBASSY DECIDES TIME NOT PROPITIOUS, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR BEST JUDGMENT AS TO EXPECTED REACTION FROM EACH GOVERNMENT IN EVENT DEPARTMENT WERE TO APPROVE RELEASE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, INFORMATION CONTROL, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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Subject: PUBLIC RELEASE OF FMS/MAP DETAILS ON ARAB COUNTRIES, IRAN AND ISRAEL TAGS: MCAP, MILI, MASS, IR, IS, JO, KU, LE, SA, SF

To: AMMAN MULTIPLE

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